

## Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 PRS-01 SCCT-01 SY-02 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 RSC-01 /039 W

----- 047535

R 270802Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2064

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0419

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, OVIP, KU

SUBJECT: TIME MIDEAST "NEWSTOUR" VISIT TO KUWAIT.

1. DURING HECTIC 18-HOUR VISIT TO KUWAIT JANUARY 25-26

TIME "NEWSTOUR" GROUP MET WITH AMIR, PANEL OF SENIOR GOK OFFICIALS  
LED BY ABDUL LATIF AL-HAMAD, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF KUWAIT FUND  
FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND RASHID ABD AL-AZIZ AL-RASHID,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTER  
FINANCE & OIL ABSENT FROM KUWAIT), ATTENDED "TEA" OFFERED BY  
LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON BEHALF GOK, AND, PARTICIPATED IN  
BRIEFING SESSION WITH AMBASSADOR. PARTY SEEMED PLEASED WITH  
ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY GOK AND LEFT KUWAIT WITH INCREASED APPRECIATION  
OF COMPLEXITY OF LOCAL SOCIETY AND IMPRESSED BY SOPHISTICATION  
OF KUWAIT LEADERSHIP.

2. EMBASSY OFFICIALS DID NOT ATTEND JANUARY 26 MEETING WITH AMIR  
OR SUBSEQUENT PANEL DISCUSSION. FORMER DESCRIBED BY VISITORS  
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AS "ROUTINE AND UNEVENTFUL". CONSENSUS OF GROUP WAS THAT LATTER

MEETING WAS HIGHPOINT OF VISIT PROVIDING INSIGHT INTO ARAB AND KUWAITI THINKING ECONOMIC MATTERS BY AL-HAMAD, WHO ENTERED INTO SPIRITED AND FRIENDLY DIALOGUE ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARAB INVESTMENT IN U.S. AL-HAMAD MADE CLEAR GOK DID NOT WISH TO MIX POLITICS AND ECONOMICS AND WAS ANXIOUS TO INVEST IN US PROVIDED IT KNEW RULES. ONLY SHARP EXCHANGE OCCURRED WHEN FORD REP IACOCCA RAISED BOYCOTT ISSUE WHICH AL-HAMAD COUNTERED WITH CHARGE U.S. FOLLOWING SAME PRACTICES WITH RESPECT TO CUBA AND CHINA. RASHID AL-RASHID, IN POINTED BUT FRIENDLY MANNER, MADE CLEAR GOK INTENTION TO CONTINUE STEER INDEPENDENT COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES. DURING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TEA GROUP MET WITH WIDE GROUP INFLUENTIAL KUWAITI LEADERS RESULTING IN AT LEAST ONE DECISION BY COMPANY CHAIRMAN (BELL & HOWELL) TO INVESTIGATE LOCAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY.

3. OF MOST INTEREST WERE REMARKS MADE BY GROUP CONCERNING VISITS TO EGYPT, JORDAN, SYRIA AND ISRAEL. MAJORITY INDICATED THEY IMPRESSED BY ARAB (SADAT AND ASSAD), LESS SO WITH ISRAELI (ALLON AND RABIN) LEADERS. ALLEGEDLY, ALLON AND RABIN WERE "UNNECESSARILY" RIGID IN VIEWS WHILE ASSAD AND SADAT HAD DISPLAYED SENSE OF ARAB RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPECTABILITY NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN. GROUP DIVERGED GREATLY ON PLO MEETINGS, BUT MOST SEEMED CONVINCED THAT NO SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE IN MIDDLE EAST UNTIL QUESTION OF PALESTINIANS RESOLVED. HUSSEIN REPORTEDLY RECONCILED TO PLAYING ONLY MINOR ROLE IN FUTURE.

4. NEWSTOUR GROUP VIVIDLY REFLECTED DIVISIVENESS AND FRUSTRATIONS IN U.S. SOCIETY CAUSED BY ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE. RANGED FROM MENTION "INTERNATIONAL/ZIONIST CONSPIRACY" TO VIRTUALLY TOTAL COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL, BUT MOST APPROACHED ISSUE WITH OPEN MIND. CABLE APPARENTLY WAS SENT BY SOME MEMBERS OF GROUP TO VARIOUS SENATORS SIGNING DECEMBER LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD RE NEED TO SUPPORT ISRAEL, AN ACTION RESENTED BY OTHER PARTICIPANTS. ALSO, COMPETING FACTIONS ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO ENSURE SECRETARY KISSINGER RECEIVED THE BENEFIT OF THEIR VIEWS PRIOR TO HIS ANNOUNCED NEW TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST AREA.

5. VISIT COVERED BY KUWAIT TV AND RADIO AND WAS MAJOR FRONT PAGE ITEM IN JAN 27 LOCAL PRESS. THIS COVERAGE WAS SURPRISINGLY LARGE, WITH NO PRIOR LOCAL PRESS ARRANGEMENTS MADE AND TIME NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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SEEKING REPORTING IN KUWAIT MEDIA.  
STOLTZFUS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**To:** STATE  
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